

Testimony Submitted to the Appropriations Committee:

H.B. No. 5044: An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

Submitted By: Elena M. DePalma

February 18, 2016

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

I would like to share my concerns with House Bill 5044: An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

My name is Elena DePalma and I am the guardian for my brother, James Otoshavett, a 56 year old individual with Down Syndrome, who is a client with Ability Beyond, currently receiving residential, health and other related services from that organization. My brother has been a client in the Connecticut social services system for most of his life. Cuts to agencies such as the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) would be catastrophic to the functioning of organizations such as Ability Beyond and others that provide support to my brother and others like him.

I implore you to reconsider making the proposed cuts to the budget that would impact the services delivered to these, the most helpless and vulnerable of our citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or for additional information.

Elena M. DePalma
8 Queach Road
North Branford, CT 06471
201-815-5829
elena.depalma@yale.edu

cc: Alice Meenan, Ability Beyond
cc: Vincent J. Candeloro, State Representative, District 086
cc: Ted Kennedy, State Senator, District 512